IN PINCKNEYVILLE 1926 - 1932

East Water Street

- Clyde Brown's Chevrolet Agency
- Jim McCrary, Pierce Pennant Gas & Oil
- Bill Opp, Ice Delivery, Coca Cola
- Harry Schoch, Blacksmith Shop
- Blackburn Bros., Poultry, Eggs, Cream

West Water Street, South Side

- Fred Beck, Hardware Store
- Hammack's United Cleaners
- Fred Pundsack, Ford Garage
- Dan Jackson, Maidrite Cafe
- P. J. Reidelberger, Shell Gas & Oil
- Wabash, Chester & Western R. R. Depot (Missouri Pacific)

South Main Street

- George & Kate Gruner, Garage
- John Herrmany, Feed & Seeds
- Miniature Golf Course
- O. H. Schulze, Lumber Yard
- Sinclair Gas & Oil
- G. E. Bartle, General Store
- Phillips 66 Gas & Oil
- Ren Craig, Barber Shop
- Chas. Boquillon, Store
- G. W. Benedict, Groceries & Meats
- Benedict's Nehi Soda Bottlers
- Standard Oil Co. Gas & Oil (Marathon)
- Nola's Cafe (Rosie's)
- A. J. Swetzler Garage (Hubler's)
- Joe Hoffman Grocery Store
- Wides Service Station, (glasses/dishes)

Miscellaneous

- P'ville Garment Factory, Kearns Bros.
- Enos Keene, Red & White Grocery
- P'ville Motor Service, Ray Hagler (P'ville to St. Louis daily)
- Otto Roethe, Transfer (Dodge, Chev.)
- Chas. Matzenbacher, Transfer (Model T)
- Bill Keene, Coal Hauling (Model T Ford-no cab)
- Bill Hickman, Coal Hauling (Model T Ford-no cab)
- Ruben Davis, Coal Hauling (Model T Ford-no cab)
- Jesse Jones, Taxi (Model T Ford Touring)
- Joe Fox, Taxi (Star Sedan)
- Lyle Trefftz, Carpenter Shop
- Buzzie Koontz, Carpenter Shop
- John Hottes, Carpenter Shop
- Daddy Winn & Offie Winn, Carpenter Shop
- Irl Trefftzs, Blacksmith Shop

West Water Street, North Side

W. O. Edwards, Attorney at Law (up)
Dr. J. L. Quillman, Dentist (up)
Murphy Wall Bank
Dr. John Kane, Dentist (up)
Dr. W. W. Kane, M. D. (up)
Max Hanson, Attorney at Law (up)
Mohr's Tonsorial Parlor
W. J. Cunningham, Real Estate & Insurance
J. G. Taffee, Insurance
Harry Smith, Justice of Peace
John Bischof, Taxi (Model T Ford)
Dr. J. L. Ervin, Veterinarian (large barn)
Giacomo Bros., Diamond DX Gas & Oil
Ruth Gillespie, Beauty Parlor
Martin Gas & Oil (premiums: glass dishes/glasses

West Randolph Street & South Douglas Street

Malone's Lumber Yard (merged with Schulze)
Farmers' Store
Carl Eisfelder, Poland Gas & Oil
Mamie Pinkard Studio
Buettner's Bakery
Bender's General Store
Elmer Keene's Califo Market (groceries)
E. "Buck" Boquillon, Shell Gas & Oil, work clothe
P'ville Ice Plant
P'ville Milling Co.

Illinois Central Depot Area

Western Union Telegraph Office (in ticket office)
Railway Express Agency, Enos Williams
E. W. Fisher, Cafe & Hotel
Dave Huggins/Olin Luke Barber Shop
Wallace Peacock, Restuarant & Rooms
Dippel's Barber Shop
Wedge Cafe
Jake Ginn, Soft Drink Bottler
George Ritter, Concrete Blocks
Lee Thetford, West End Store
John Funk, Grocery Store

PINCKNEYVILLE

From Perils of Pauline a

'Everything' was once held at Pinckneyville opera house

By DeMaris Berry
Of The Southern Illinoisan

What is now the P. N. Hirsch building in Pinckneyville may not look like a place where a beautiful blonde woman escaped time after time from horrible dangers.

But it happened every week for several weeks — not in reality — in the movie serial, "The Perils of Pauline."

The second floor of what is now the Hirsch building was once the Kunz Opera House and "the entertainment center of the town."

Dean Bartle, a retired businessman, recalls the first movies shown in Pinckneyville were shown at the opera house.

"You could hardly call them movies. They were far from being perfected and were jumpy and silent.

"During the silent movies, Edna Thorpe Grunner usually played the piano. She was very good. When the action was fast, she played furiously, adding to our enjoyment," Bartle said.

He remembers paying 10 cents each week to see the movies.

"The serials always ended with the star in a dilemma. Someone would be getting ready to cut Pauline in half with a saw or tying her to a railroad track," Bartle said.

Edna Hincke, 78, of Pinckneyville, said, "The opera house was real nice. It would seat about 400. There was a beautiful stage with footlights and dressing rooms."

After the silent movie era, the stage was used for live presentations.

Sometimes the shows were put on entirely by a local club or organization.

At other times, a repertory company would be contacted by a club. Sometimes the company would present the entire show, but usually the company would send a person to Pinckneyville.

That person, who would have access to play scripts, would decide on the play, have auditions, and then act as coach and director.

"These productions were well attended. I think I was in most of them," Mrs. Hincke said.

The proceeds would be divided between the repertory company and the sponsoring club.

"I can only remember the title of one play I was in, and that was 'The Girl of the Golden West'," said Mrs. Hincke.

She said Parker Wilson, who was a Pinckneyville resident, wrote several plays that were performed without the aid of a repertory company.

"When there was a repertory company, the company provided the costumes for the production. Otherwise, we had to find or make our own," said Mrs. Hincke.

Traveling shows also presented plays in the opera house.

"Usually the cast was small. Sometimes one person would play three or four parts. I remember a show where one man, who was a quick change artist, played all the parts. Sometimes there would be vaudeville performances between play acts. There were a lot of dance teams, and in the 1920s the song and dance man with the straw hat and cane was the rage," Bartle said.

"It seems it was in the late 1920s or early 1930s that some traveling salesmen set up in the opera house. I remember one salesman had an electric vibrating belt which was supposed to cure everything from fallen arches to arthritis and bad tonsils, Bartle said.

"During prohibition there were some dandy dances in the opera house. There have probably been more fights per square inch there than in any other place in town," said Charles Roe, who owns an abstract company in Pinckneyville.

The entire dance hall era apparently was not as wild as during the prohibition period.

Bartle recalls the Roland Fenton band of Mt. Vernon was a favorite area band. Traveling bands occasionally played.

The opera house, apparently while also functioning as a dance hall, became the site of the first indoor basketball games in Pinckneyville.

Mrs. Hincke said the high school played basketball in the opera house during bad weather. Otherwise, the games were played outdoors.

Bartle said the town also had a semi-professional basketball team that played in the opera house. The team would challenge other towns such as Du

l plays to popular-priced apparel

Quoin, Sparta or Benton.

"The players would split the ticket money. There was always a pretty good turnout. You have to remember those days were before television, and there was not much entertainment," Bartle said.

As a child, Bartle recalls, he watched the opera house "like a hawk. My friend and I always wanted the job of passing the bills announcing the upcoming entertainment. I remember one cold evening when I was 11 or 12 years old, I saw some activity at the opera house. I ran over there and got the bills. I nearly froze passing them out. I returned to the opera house to get paid. Only then did I discover the bills announced a free show, and I had done the job for nothing. I should have read the bills."

He said a payment of 50 cents was considered a "windfall. Sometimes if I caught a bottle hockey in the right mood, I'd make that much."

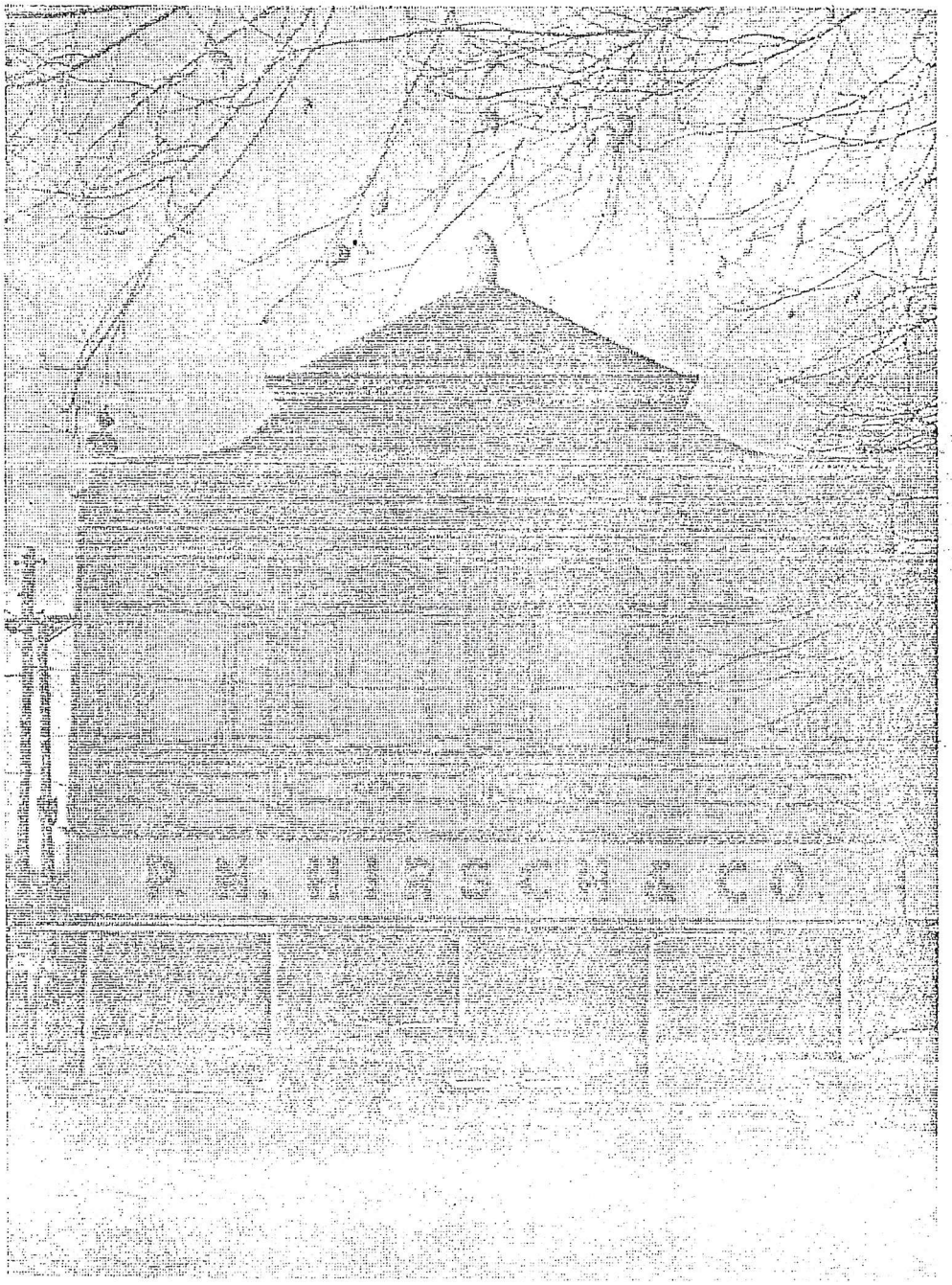
Roe remembers attending Armistice Day ceremonies in the opera house when he was a child.

"My grandfather, an observor for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War, spoke once. Another time I remember my grandfather whispering stories during the ceremonies, causing one of my friends to laugh so loud the speaker quit talking, and my grandfather just sat there looking innocent," Roe said.

Before the building was purchased by the Hirsch Company, which turned the second floor into a warehouse, the last activity Bartle remembers being held in the second floor was roller skating.

Nevins Ware, manager of the M. N. Hirsch store, said, "I've had persons come into the store and mention so many different activities that have been held upstairs, I've concluded everything has been held there.

"Although the seating is gone, there are still a few signs of the past, such as the balcony," Ware said.



Former Pinckneyville opera house now a department store

The exact age of the opera house building is unknown, but Roe estimates it is at least 100 years old.

"The lot where the Hirsch building stands, first sold on Aug. 2, 1828 for $50. Jacob Kunz bought the lot for $35 in 1861 at a tax sale. Maria Kunz, the widow of Jacob, sold the land and building in 1921 to Jesse Dimond Jr., who sold it in 1924 to Max J. Hirsch," Roe said. "I can't tell from the records exactly when the opera house was built. I'm about 60 years old and it was an old building when I was a child," Roe said.